

## NATIONAL PBM COMMUNICATION · April 30, 2009

### Propofol (Diprivan®) and Clevidipine (Cleviprex®) and Potential Look-Alike Concern

- Propofol (Diprivan®) is an intravenous (IV) sedative agent used in the induction and maintenance of general anesthesia, monitored anesthesia care sedation, procedural sedation, and sedation for mechanical ventilation (See Figure 1).
- Clevidipine (Cleviprex®) is an IV calcium-channel blocker used to treat peri-operative hypertension as well as acute, severe hypertension (See Figure 2).
- Both are milky white solutions that are infused intravenously.
- Both are available in small glass bottles and used in the intensive care unit (ICU)/operating room (OR)/emergency department (ED) settings.
- Due to the above similarities, a concern of potential “look-alike” confusion between the two products has been raised.
- Patients may be at risk for suffering significant harm due to the acute situation(s) in which the patient would be receiving these medications.
  - Unsuccessful sedation resulting in rapid awakening, as well as anxiety, agitation, and resistance to mechanical ventilation could result if a patient did not receive their intended dose of propofol. If a patient receives propofol instead of clevidipine without a protected airway, the patient could suffer from respiratory depression or arrest.
  - Uncontrolled blood pressure could result if a patient did not receive their intended dose of clevidipine. If a patient receives clevidipine instead of propofol without an elevated blood pressure, hypotension could result.

Figure 1.



Figure 2.



- Staff must be informed of potential look-alike confusion between Propofol and Clevidipine (Cleviprex®).
- Pharmacy must store Propofol (Diprivan®) and Clevidipine (Cleviprex®) in separate areas in the pharmacy. [Clevidipine (Cleviprex®) vials should be refrigerated at 2-8°C (36-46°F). Vials in cartons may be stored at temperatures up to 25°C (77°F) for no greater than 2 months.<sup>1</sup> Propofol (Diprivan®) should be stored between 4-22°C (40-72°F).<sup>2</sup>]
- Pharmacy must create a warning system for staff to notify of potential look-alike confusion between Propofol and Clevidipine (Cleviprex®) (e.g., computer alerts during the ordering/verifying process and/or warning stickers on packaging).
- Drug/syringe used must be verified with the name of the drug on the prescription.

#### REFERENCES

1. Cleviprex package insert. Parsippany, NJ: The Medicines Company; 2008 Aug.
2. Diprivan package insert. Wilmington, DE: AstraZeneca; 2005 Aug.

#### ACTIONS:

- **Facility COS:** Forward this document to all appropriate providers who prescribe/use/handle this agent (e.g., providers, nurses and technicians who work in the ICU/OR/ED settings, including contract providers, etc.). In addition, forward to the Associate Chief of Staff (ACOS) for Research and Development (R&D). Forward to other VA employees as deemed appropriate. Report completion of actions to the Facility Director.
- **ACOS for R&D:** Forward this document to Principal Investigators (PIs) who have authority to practice at the facility and to your respective Institutional Review Board (IRB).